

**Alexandria Commission for Women**  
**City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 2000**  
**October 8, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anuja Miner; Maribel Ramos; T. Nicole Hutchinson (by phone); Julie Harbour; Elizabeth “PJ” Palmer Johnson; Brian Morreale; Lateisha Garrett; Rana Wilson and Diana Karczmarczyk

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Katherine “Katie” Seifu and Jodie Rubenstein

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Debra Evans, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), Domestic Violence Program/Sexual Assault Center (DV/SA) and Hannah Jenuwine, visitor.

**1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Alexandria Commission for Women (ACFW) was called to order by Chair Ramos at 7:15 p.m. It was announced that Kendra Martello resigned and a new Commissioner, Mary Kate Whalen, has joined. The Commission now has three vacancies.

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 2019 MINUTES**

Review of the September 2019 minutes took place. Corrections were suggested. Chair Ramos moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Commissioner Palmer Johnson moved to second, Commissioner Miner seconded. Chair Ramos approved to accept the minutes as corrected.

**3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session took place after covering items on the agenda.

**4. 2019/2010 EVENTS**

Salute to Women (STW) Event: It was discussed about potentially doing the STW event and two or three smaller educational events where small businesses (restaurants/bars) will host it with a speaker and raise awareness of the anniversary.

A subcommittee is needed to work on STW specifically. **Action Item: *Volunteers for the STW Subcommittee: Commissioner Morreale (he also volunteered to do both the STW and smaller events), Commissioner Miner, Chair Ramos, Second Vice Chair Harbour (volunteered to do both the STW and smaller events).***

The Turning Point Memorial is having many events. The Commission would like to do an event that involves youth. The Commission will have a youth Commissioner member soon. The Commission will partner with the Children, Youth and Family Collaborative Commission (CYFCC). **Action Item: Commissioner Karczmarczyk agreed to work on the three smaller events.**

The 100th Anniversary Event Planning Committee takes place the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 7 p.m., at Panera Bread on Duke St. The meetings are scheduled on the City calendar. **Action Item: Commissioner Karczmarczyk will email a reminder. Commissioner Palmer-Johnson will join the 100th Anniversary Event Planning Committee in their meeting.**

Congressman Byers' Women's Conference is taking place Saturday, October 12. Jane Fonda is going to be one of the guest speakers. Commissioner Palmer-Johnson needs updated brochures for the Commission and suggested to use a brochure without a picture. **Action Item: Chair Ramos will set up the table. They will take the old t-shirts and give them away. Chair Ramos will pick up the t-shirts and will help set up for the event. Commissioner Palmer-Johnson will bring a tablecloth and create a sign and sign-up sheet and will add a check box for those who want to volunteer. It was mentioned that Commissioner Garrett will be in attendance to answer any questions about Vola Lawson.**

The Walk will take place on Saturday, October 12, at Oakland Baptist Church, at 8 a.m. Participants will walk to the waterfront at 9 a.m. There is an option to catch a van back to the Church from the waterfront. Everyone can donate. All the funds from the event go to the Vola Lawson Fund. **Action Item: Commissioner Harbour will be there. Commissioner Wilson will send an email reminder about this event.**

## **5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

October Events: T-Shirts: The Fire Department has new T-shirts for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. They are not taking them to the Farmers' Market.

The Silent Witness Vigil will take place on October 24 at City Hall, Market Square. Families will have a private viewing at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7 p.m. **Action Item: Commissioners were asked to let Debra Evans know if they would like to assist and that they can come to the program and pass out programs.**

The annual Children's Holiday Party hosted by the Domestic Violence Program will take place on December 19, at the First Baptist Church. McDonald's is bringing chicken nuggets and apple slices. Gifts are being collected the week of Thanksgiving. **Action Item: Debra Evans will send an email to Commissioners in reference to volunteer opportunities for the party.**

Commissioner Miner shared that they are still trying to confirm the Los Tios event. She is looking at a Wednesday or Thursday within the next week. Proceeds of Los Tios' sales has been \$250 for the last two years. **Action Item: Commissioner Miner will send details on the event to First Vice Chair Hutchinson for promotion on other social media (Instagram). Chair Ramos encouraged Commissioners to send an email to all their contacts and to Friends. Commissioner Palmer-Johnson asked Commissioner Miner to create a flyer for the event so they can have it at their tabling event.**

Zebra Press Article for November: The Commission has a column in Zebra Press in the Women's Corner where articles on women's issues are submitted. Last month was about breast cancer. Commissioner Seifu asks for submissions for the column monthly. **Action Item: Articles are due to Zebra Press Friday, October 11.**

Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the Partnership for Alexandria: CHIP had a community meeting on three topic areas identified as mental health, affordable housing and general poverty. In November each topic will have a larger community meeting to flesh out an action plan. **Action Item: Commissioner Karczmarczyk will write an article about HIV for December. Commissioner Garrett suggested that girls' mental health be shared since it is part of the Status on Women and Girls Report. Chair Ramos will write an article and submit it for November. The article will touch on all topics. Commissioner Palmer-Johnson suggested to include information on the elderly.**

Human Rights Commission Liaison Vacancy: Since Kendra Martello resigned from the Commission, there is a vacancy for the Human Rights Commission Liaison position. The Human Rights Commission meets every 3rd Tuesday, 7 pm – 9 pm at City Hall. The duty is to report topics that come out from each Commission and share information. **Action Item: Commissioner Palmer-Johnson will attend a couple of meetings before committing to be liaison.**

HIV/AIDS Commission: The HIV/AIDS Commission has a lot of turnover with many openings for members. Their focus is an event on December 1 on HIV. There will be an event in Old Town at Saint Joseph's Church.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

## **Important Dates / Reminders / Announcements**

**Next ACFW Meeting is Tuesday, November 12, 7 pm**

**Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

**October 24: Silent Witness Candlelight Vigil**

**December 19: Children's Holiday Party**